

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Specialist Joseph C. Thibodeaux.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Specialist Joseph C. Thibodeaux upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death in combat of Specialist Thibodeaux; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Thibodeaux was a native of Lafayette and a 1998 graduate of high school who was thought of by teachers and staff as "one of those students you like to have in your class, he was respectful, always used 'yes, ma'am' and 'yes, sir,' and an all-around good guy," according to his high school principal, Patrick Leonard; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Thibodeaux left his job with UPS in Louisiana and enlisted in the United States Army because he felt a duty to serve his country in uniform and because he thought that as a member of the armed forces he would be in a better position to protect America from its enemies; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Thibodeaux always had a natural talent for shooting firearms his father, Joseph Thibodeaux, Sr., said and was such a fine marksman that the United States Olympics Team was interested in him, and his superiors in the military were prepared to assign him to teach other soldiers to shoot; however, those orders were put on hold after the

1 war in Iraq began; and

2 WHEREAS, Specialist Thibodeaux subsequently was assigned to Headquarters
3 Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division (Light) and went to the Iraqi
4 Theater of Operations where the unit was deployed to Hawijah, Iraq; and

5 WHEREAS, Specialist Thibodeaux was soon well thought of in his unit as he had
6 been back in his community during his high school days because o f his unselfish ways and
7 because he always placed the needs of the men in his unit and the accomplishment of his
8 mission ahead of his own needs and interests; and

9 WHEREAS, Specialist Thibodeaux was 24 years old when he was on patrol with his
10 unit on September 1, 2004, when he was ambushed by heavily-armed terrorist forces and
11 was mortally wounded when he and his men engaged the enemy force in a ferocious
12 firefight; and

13 WHEREAS, while the loss of Specialist Thibodeaux was almost more than his family
14 could endure, his ultimate sacrifice for this country caused the citizens in his community to
15 rally in support of this nation's efforts in the war on terror and the l iberation of the Iraqi
16 people; and

17 WHEREAS, Specialist Thibodeaux will forever be remembered by his family,
18 friends, and fellow soldiers as a dedicated soldier and his sacrifice further serves as a
19 reminder that freedom is never free and Americans may have to fight to protect the freedoms
20 and liberties its citizens now enjoy.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
22 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a
23 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army Specialist Joseph C.
24 Thibodeaux for fighting America's enemies in a faraway land.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
26 Specialist Thibodeaux's mother and father, Rebecca and Joseph C. Thibodeaux, and his
27 brother, Jerome.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Specialist Joseph C. Thibodeaux.